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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 3

March 1997

Cubic Foot Measurement Replacing Board Foot In Timber Program

by Cliff Walker, Forest & Rangeland Management,
Northern Region Headquarters, Missoula, MT.

The cubics have arrived in the Northern Region!

After nearly a year of work, the Northern Region timber sale process has been converted from a board foot measurement to a cubic foot measurement. A task group of ten employees from the RO and R-1 National Forests was responsible for the conversion. The conversion was culminated in a day-long training session, December 17 in Missoula, involving approximately 120 National Forest and Ranger District personnel.

For years, loggers, sawmills, carpenters, foresters, timber purchasers, and others have used board feet as a measurement of dimension lumber. Now, after the Forest Service use of the measurement for more than 90 years, the board foot (12"X 12" X 1") is being phased out and the cubic foot (12"X12"X12") is becoming the tool of measurement. The cubic foot is closer to the international method of measurement. Canada and other European countries have long used cubic meters to measure log volumes.

Implementation of cubic measurement has required years of development and testing. It has involved the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, State agencies, industry, and third-party scaling bureaus.

Board foot measurement is sawlog-oriented measurement, explains Tom Threlkeld, regional check scaler. "It identi-

fies the number of board feet in a given log and uses the one-fourth-inch kerf (swath created by a sawblade) of the 1800s."

"It has a number of shortcomings," Threlkeld says. "While it measures the volume of dimension lumber in a given log, it doesn't reflect the volume of other products, particularly veneer and chip products.

"Another shortcoming of BF measurement is that it does not accurately reflect the tree taper," Threlkeld explained.

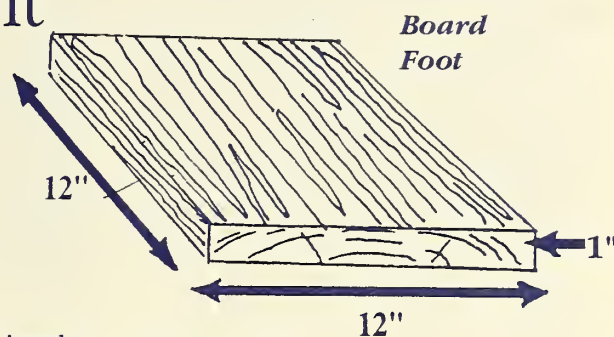
Cubics Are Here!

The BF form of measurement has, over the years, failed to reflect the true and accurate total volumes in National Forest timber sales. Cubic measurement better reflects the total volume in the logs.

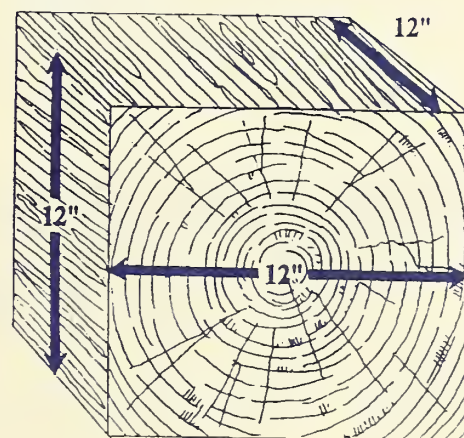
In 1991, in cooperation with industry, States, and other Federal agencies, the Forest Service published a 164-page Forest Service handbook, "National Forest Cubic Scaling Handbook."

Cubic measurement implementation is based on the 1991 handbook.

"Cubic measurement will reflect total log volumes within the bark, including taper," Threlkeld said. "It will utilize a more accurate kerf. The 1/4-inch kerf of the 1800s is out of date. Modern-day saw paths are much narrower."



Cubic Foot



The advantages of the conversion to cubic feet measurement include:

- simple to convert to metric when the time comes;
- improved fiber accountability;
- international uniformity.

"Another important advantage of cubic measurement is we will have much more accurate information available to us on the volumes and rates of growth of National Forest timber," Threlkeld pointed out.

Using cubic measurement in estimating/predicting forest products from log volumes results in a substantial gain in accuracy in projecting primary products and by-products: the volume of products equals the volume of the logs.

Danny On Awards By Flathead NF

A veteran silviculturist, retired high school teachers and a late forester for the Inland Forest Industries Association were honored in February with Danny On Memorial Conservation Awards.

The conservation awards, created by the Flathead NF, are in memory of Danny On, a former Flathead NF silviculturist and a nationally-recognized outdoor photographer who used his photographs to promote conservation. On served as a paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II, was a Forest Service smokejumper, held bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry from the University of Montana and had a distinguished career as a silviculturist for the Forest Service. Flathead National Forest Supervisor Rodd Richardson presented the Danny On Memorial Conservation Awards to:

Gary and Mary Sloan, retired Whitefish (MT) High School teachers. They were recognized for volunteer work that included post-fire monitoring, with photo plots, the Little Wolf burn; five years of monitoring work at research plots in the Miller Creek



MRS. CAROL DIAMOND accepts the Danny On Conservation Award from Flathead NF Supervisor Rodd Richardson in behalf of her late husband, Seth Diamond.

Demonstration Forest; study of fire-scarred trees to reconstruct forest fire history; monitoring loons and building nesting structures; teaching about huckleberries at the annual Family Forestry Expo near Columbia Falls, MT.

James VanDenburg, Flathead NF silviculturist, was recognized for leading 17 years of work that resulted in planting more than 15 million trees on 106,466 acres in the Flathead NF. He received a regional forester's award in 1991 for the most successful reforestation program in the Northern Region.

Seth Diamond, late forester for the Inland Forest Industries Association, died in a plane crash last fall. Mrs. Carol Diamond accepted the award in ceremonies in Missoula in behalf of her late husband. The citation on the award reads, in part: "Bridgebuilder. Peacemaker. Seeker of common ground. In the story about his untimely death, the MISSOULIAN wrote: The grizzly bears, the wolves and the harlequin ducks surely would miss Seth Diamond if they could. After all, he championed their cause-reintroduction. Habitat. Survival. His leadership in Flathead Common Ground, a consensus-based group of conservationists and forest industry representatives added luster to an already brilliant reputation as a Forest Service biologist. Solving problems was a special talent of Mr. Diamond, both at the Intermountain Forest Industry Association, which he joined in July 1994, and in his job with the Lewis & Clark NF, where he earned a national Department of Agriculture award for endangered species management."

Clearwater NF Help For Mudslide Victims

by Kathy Thompson, Information Assistant, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho.

Clearwater NF Supervisor Jim Caswell's answer was just what local emergency officials hoped to hear when they called him early in January: "Of Course. We'll Help."

Caswell's response was immediate and matter of fact. "We have people who can help, and we can pull them together pretty quickly."

The Clearwater NF supervisor asked for volunteers to evacuate families' possessions when their homes were threatened by mudslides in Greer, Idaho.

Twenty Forest Service employees, including Caswell, spent a day moving a lifetime of possessions from the homes of three families. Two local businessmen donated storage space. The Forest Service's green rigs shuttled back and forth between Greer and the storage facilities in Orofino until the last box was moved.

Greer residents were grateful that Forest Service employees pitched in. "The most impressive part was their attitude," said one woman who was helping her neighbors. Where a job needed to be done, they did it. "On behalf of Greer, thank you," she said.

Two families played a waiting game. They stayed in temporary housing and looked forward to the day they would get the "all clear" to return to their homes. A third family found another place to live. They're getting on with their lives.

Clearwater NF employee Brooks Beegle knows how it feels to wait and wonder when life will get back to normal. The Beegle family barely made it out of their home last February when a mudslide tore through the house.



CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST EMPLOYEES: (L to R) Bill Jones, Skip Danielson and Brooks Beegle were among the 20 Forest Service employees who helped evacuate three Greer, Idaho, families in early January. Their homes were threatened by mudslides. Photo by Kathy Thompson

Beegle knows firsthand how it feels to be on the receiving end of neighborly compassion, and he passes on the kindness shown him and his family every chance he gets.

He and his co-workers, led by their boss, were there when their neighbors needed a helping hand.

Two Flathead NF Frontliners Help Bikers Enjoy Trip

by Kaye L. Dobrocke, Support Services Supervisor,
Hungry Horse RD, Flathead National Forest.



**INFORMATION TECHNICIAN
ED CUMMING, HUNGRY
HORSE (MT) RD, FLATHEAD
NF.**

Photo by Al Koss, Forestry Technician,
Hungry Horse RD, Flathead NF.

Recreationists enjoy their National Forest visits when they get planning information, help and suggestions.

Two visitors from the midwest enjoyed an exciting bicycle trip on the Flathead NF last summer, thanks to the planning assistance of two information technicians: Ed Cumming on the Hungry Horse RD and Dan Schraeder on the Swan Lake RD.

Cumming recently received a copy of one of the bicyclist's journal as an expression of appreciation and thanks for Cumming's and Schraeder's help in planning the tour of the Flathead Country.

The planning started with one of the wives, "Barb", "surfing the net" for things to see and do along Flathead Lake and Highway 93. Then she telephoned Ed for information and help in planning the bicycling trip.

As an avid motorcyclist, Cumming is familiar with some of the terrain the two men planned to travel. He had some concerns about their well-being and safety. His first request was for a FAX copy of their planned itinerary.

Then the planning ball began to roll. Ed personally assisted the bicyclists plan an exciting,

interesting and beautiful trip with emphasis on safety. Along with other information, he provided the cyclists with phone numbers for the local search and rescue organization and his home phone number, should they need assistance. "Help is never very far away," he explained.

On their trip, the bikers stopped at the Swan Lake Ranger Station at Bigfork, Montana. They reviewed their route with Information Technician Dan Schraeder. He explained their route would be arduous and suggested special precautions as they traveled in gizzly bear country.

In his journal, the bicyclist described his wife's contact with Ed Cumming as "...best of all, Barb made a new best friend via the Internet." "Best Friend" is a flattering title for these frontliners who serve National Forest visitors so well. It is a title that speaks well of their exceptional service.

Cumming answers to "Ranger Ed," "Mr. Ed," "Receptionist," "Frontliner" and "Forest Ranger." But I'm sure he enjoys nothing as much as "Best Friend" when a visitor calls him after enjoying a visit to the Flathead NF.

Bonnerr's Ferry RD Helps

"Disaster Area" Designation Twice for Boundary County

by Allen Chrisman, Assistant District ranger,
Bonnerr's Ferry (ID) RD, Idaho Panhandle NFs.

Eight days of winter snow storms and heavy rains on top of already record snow accumulations, December 26 - January 2, resulted in Idaho's Boundary County being designated a "disaster area" for the second time in less than a year.

During the extended week of storms, Bonners Ferry RD, Idaho Panhandle NF, provided critical assistance to emergency crews in the county.

The District provided the Idaho National Guard with 14 portable radios for tactical communications as National Guard units split into multiple crews to shovel snow from roof tops throughout the county.

The Forest Service also provided six propane torches and 25 five-gallon plastic water containers (called "cubies") from the District's fire cache.

During the prime TV time for football bowl games on New Years Day, two district fire specialists, Will Parker and Kirk Westfall, manned three Forest Service water pumps to remove water from the Boundary County High School buildings.

District employee Pat Behrens, who doubles as freshman basketball coach at the high school, worked with the basketball team shoveling snow from the roof of the high school.

Special thanks are due Acting District Rangers Chris Jacobson and Dave Glen and Law Enforcement Officer Lee Taylor for their role in coordinating the the Forest Service assistance during the eight days of the Christmas-New Year holiday season.

Thanks also to Don Bergstrand and Ralph Bahe for organizing and supplying needed equipment from the District cache, to Pat Behrens for working with the shovel brigade and Westfall and Parker for giving up watching critical football bowl games on television to help save the high school.

Short Notes



HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS are on permanent display at the Slate Creek Ranger Station, Salmon River RD, White Bird, ID, Nez Perce, NF. The ranger station is on Idaho State Highway No. 95, at milepost 24, between White Bird and Riggins. The exhibit includes more than 70 historical photographs given to the Ranger District by Ethlyn (Zerr) McKellips. She was born in White Bird in 1914. For additional information about the exhibit, telephone Shelley Gill (208) 839-2211.

MIKE & MARCY GOGGIN RETIRE: Mike started to work for the Forest Service in 1958 on the Sierra NF. From 1981 to 1987 he worked on the Lewis & Clark NF and in the R-1 RO. He went to the WO in 1987 and worked on several assignments and was R-5 assistant deputy regional forester in Atlanta at the time of his retirement. Marcy started to work for the Forest Service in the WO in 1988 on the Wildlife and Fisheries staff and the Recreation & Wilderness Management staff. She was a Southern Region budget analyst at the time of her retirement.

CAMPGROUND RESERVATIONS: If O'Hare Campground on the Selway River, Moose Creek/Selway RD, Nez Perce NF, is your favorite campground, note that the reservation season for the campground is May 16 through Sept. 2 for 1997. The cost per night is \$8 with a \$8.25 one-time reservation fee. You can reserve your campsite up to 5 days before arrival. To reserve one of the 19 campsites, of the 32 sites at O'Hare, telephone the National Recreation Reservation Center: 1-800-280-2267.

PRESCRIBED FIRES ON CLEARWATER RD, Grangeville, ID, will continue this spring in the South Fork Clearwater River drainage. District Ranger Darcy Pederson reports the prescribed fires will range in size from 4 acres to 1,700 acres in four areas on the District. A total of 2,700 acres will be burned. From 1987 through 1996, the District has completed prescribed burning up to 3,000 acres per year within the South Fork drainage.

AUCTION OF OIL & GAS LEASES brings more than \$1 million in bids. The Bureau of Land Management said that 135 of the 194 parcels are in the Little Missouri National Grasslands in North Dakota. Fifty-six percent of the 194 parcels drew bids.

TANSY RAGWORT TARGETED on Tally Lake RD, Whitefish, MT, Flathead NF. District Ranger Jane Kollmeyer says 1,200 acres in the Little Wolf fire area are infested. The Forest Service will spray the largest areas in the burn twice over the next two years. The weed was first reported on the Tally Lake RD in 1993. It was not until the Little Wolf fire in 1994 that the weed population took off.

R-1 and R-4 SHARE SERVICES for acquisition/procurement & property. In February Regional Forester Hal Salwasser announced that the two regions have agreed to share the services of a Director for acquisition in R-4 and for procurement and property in R-4. This was prompted by reorganization efforts in R-1 when the administrative staff was separated into two new staffs: one for financial resources and one for procurement and property.

FOREST SERVICE VIDEO LIBRARY is now accessible through the Northern Region's home page. It is listed under 'Activities & Opportunities.' You can also reach the video library through the WO home page or through R-5's home page. The information is maintained and updated by R-5's Public Affairs Office.

CLEARWATER-NEZ PERCE RETIREE CAMPOUT AUG. 1-2, NEAR KOOSKIA, IDAHO

*By Laura Smith, Information Specialist,
Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, Idaho.*

Clearwater and Nez Perce NF retirees' biennial campout will be August 1-2, at Johnson Bar on the Selway River, one mile downstream from the Fenn Ranger Station, Selway RD, Clearwater NF, near Kooskia, Idaho.

Detailed information about the campout will be mailed to prior attendees. All retirees are welcome. Those planning to attend the campout for the first time should telephone Bob Rehfeld, (208) 983-9189, to be placed on the mailing list for details.

Non-campers can motel in Lowell, ID. Make your reservations early at the Wilderness Inn (208) 926-4706 or Three Rivers Motel (208) 926-4430.

Wearing "Fire 21" Pin on Uniform

In a letter to Forest Service employees last July, Chief Jack Ward Thomas, said he supports "employees...in showing their willingness to 'take responsibility' for safe and prudent use of fire in the management of natural resources by wearing the FIRE 21 pin on their Forest Service uniform."

The pin should be placed on the right lapel or collar or centered just above or below the nameplate.

Thomas said "Displaying the FIRE 21 logo...is your declaration and personal commitment to Fire in the 21st century. We are each responsible for wildland fire safety as well as commitment to protection, restoration and sustainability of fire-adapted ecosystems. It is our duty to understand this logo and explain to others."

Symbolism of Fire 21 Pin



The FIRE 21 PIN is the symbol of fire management in the 21st Century. Origin of the pin stems from Forest Service commitment to safe and effective use of fire in the management of natural resources for the present as well as the future.

The basic triangular shape of the pin represents the fire triangle. Without the elements of the fire triangle, the fire could not exist. The three outside red triangles of the main triangle represents the different functions of Fire Management: Operations, Planning and Aviation.

The interior triangle, the black area with three green points, represents growth (sustainability) out of the black (burned area). The three green points represent Fire & Aviation Management's commitment to protection, restoration and sustainability of fire-adapted ecosystems.

The flame and FIRE 21 inscription symbolize safe and effective use of wildland fire in the 21st century.



Conference To Address Sustainable Environments And Healthy Communities

by Nan Christianson, RO State & Private Forestry, Missoula, MT.

What are the connections between healthy, sustainable environments and healthy, sustainable communities? What can rural communities and resource managers do to enhance natural ecosystems and communities?

These and related topics will be the subject of a four-day Sustaining Our Environment and Our Communities Conference, August 19-22, 1997, at the Outlaw Inn, Kalispell, MT. The Flathead NF is hosting the conference.

The theme of the conference is "Working Together: The Sky's the Limit." RO and WO Rural Community Assistance staffers are

planning and organizing the conference in partnership with Western Montana Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organizations, businesses, tribal and conservation leaders, natural resource managers, rural development investors, philanthropic groups, community activists, educators and elected state, community and county officials.

Anyone interested in the relationship between rural communities and natural resources should plan to attend. The conference will provide opportunities to explore the connections between the quality of our

environments and our lives.

Come, join others at the conference to share tools, skills, knowledge, experiences, and visions of the future for communities and the environment.

The four days will provide opportunities to inspire each other with philosophies, efforts in progress and success stories. Attendees will have opportunities to explore current and sometimes controversial topics in a collaborative environment, and identify areas requiring work to solve some of the nation's common rural problems.

For additional program details, telephone the Bitter Root Resource RC&D in Hamilton, MT (406) 363-5450.

Spring/Summer 1998

Coram Experimental Forest To Mark 50th Anniversary

by David Tippetts, Intermountain Station, Ogden, UT.

The 8,074-acre Coram Experimental Forest, in the Flathead NF, has been a biosphere reserve since 1976. In 1998 the experimental forest will celebrate its 50th year of continuous research. Coram Experimental Forest is approximately 15 miles northeast of Columbia Falls, MT.

Miller Creek Demonstration Forest, a nearby study area, marks its 30th year of research in 1997.

These sites, plus Glacier National Park (named a biosphere reserve in 1976), and other long-term study areas will be the focus for a planned celebration of research and other community-sponsored activities in the upper Flathead River valley.

The celebration will focus on ways research helps us understand how our natural environment, society, and economy function, and how their many threads weave together to form and define us. A research conference will be featured during the Celebration wherein scientists and local students who have conducted research within this area will be invited to summarize their re-

sults. This conference will be designed to appeal to a broad segment of Flathead residents rather than only the research community and resource managers.

In the fall of 1996, students in area schools began identifying individual research projects. Teamed with mentors from various public and private "partners," the student researchers are receiving expert guidance and advice, as well as access to necessary equipment and supplies. Awards and scholarships will be given for the best projects, and students will have an opportunity to share their findings with the public through poster displays at public buildings and businesses and at special events. Some of the better papers may be published, and tours of research activities and sites will be conducted during the Celebration during the spring and summer of 1998. Months of preparation by students began in the spring of 1996 to develop information packets and instructional plans presented to area teachers in workshops.

Special lectures and discussion series are planned at the Flathead Valley Community College on the theme of how research has helped preserve the area's unique qualities.

A planned celebration book will be an anthology of residents' reflections on their environment and community. Musical and dramatic performances, and art and craft displays will reflect artists' interpretations of "Living in the Landscape."

Other activities include special walking tours through areas of particular environmental or historic interest; placement of interpretative signs at forestry demonstration sites; production of a video documenting progress and achievements; and special programs at meetings of area clubs and organizations.

For further information, call or write the Celebration Committee, c/o the Flathead Economic Policy Center, 15 Depot Park, Kalispell, MT 59901. Telephone (406) 756-8548.

More Than 600 Join In Marking Forest Centennial



Bitterroot
NATIONAL FOREST
1897-1997

by Dixie Dies, Public Affairs Officer,
Bitterroot National Forest, Hamilton, MT.

A day of celebration, a day of meeting old friends and making new ones, a day in taking time to remember the past, and a day to look at our future. That day, Friday, February 21, 1997, more than 600 people helped the Bitterroot National Forest celebrate its 100th anniversary. Many dedicated Forest employees, retirees, Job Corps students and personnel, and volunteers made it a special celebration.

Born in controversy, "....the President might as well have fenced off the whole state", grumbled U.S. Senator Carter from Montana in 1897. One hundred years later, the Forest remains controversial. The emotion and dedication to multiple use management brings people to debate land and resource management. The same emotion and dedication keeps the Forest alive and employees challenged.

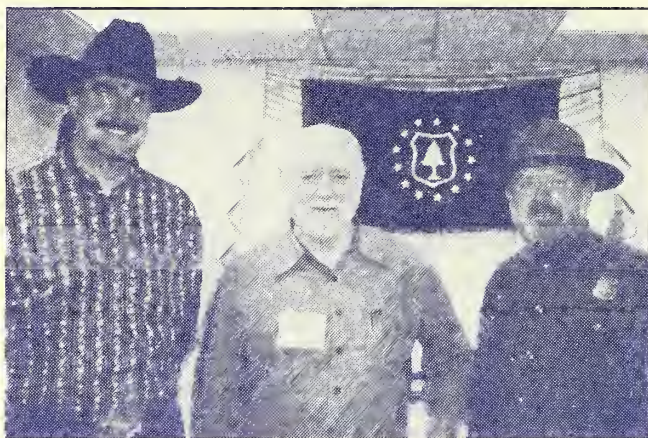
Through the years, the Bitterroot NF has experienced 13 boundary changes. The original, 1897, Forest Reserve included approximately 4.5 million acres. The boundaries were: Eastern - along the west side of the Valley; Northern - almost to the Clearwater River; Western - to approximately 16 miles east of Grangeville, ID; and Southern - the Salmon River. There have been 13 Forest Supervisors, 114 Rangers, 7 Rangers Districts and numerous Ranger Stations, and 8 Job Corps Center Directors assigned to the Forest since 1897.



UNIFORMS, PAST & PRESENT: (L to R) Cass Cairns, Information Receptionist, Steve Kelly, Forest Supervisor.



1997 UNIFORMS (L to R) West Fork District Ranger Nora Rasure; Darby/Stevensville District Ranger Tom Wagner; Administrative Officer/Engineer Roy Grant.



(L to R) **REGIONAL FORESTER HAL SALWASSER**, Jack Ward Thomas, former Chief of the Forest Service; and Steve Kelly Supervisor, Bitterroot NF.

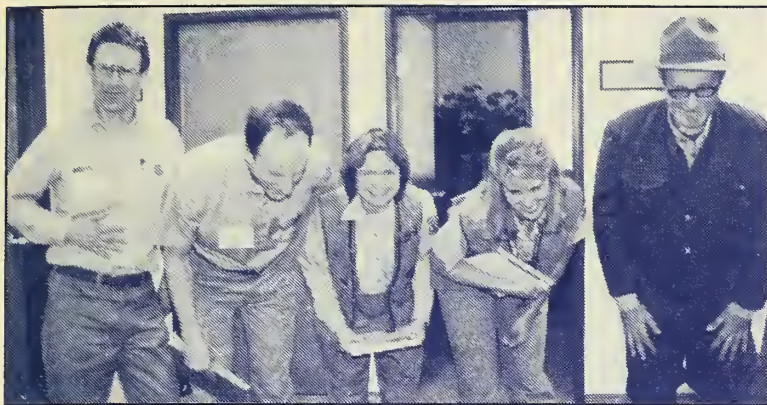


ELEANOR C. MARVIN, "aka the Cookie Lady", Bitterroot NF personnel management specialist, serves cookies and offers T-shirts for centennial guests.

Today, the 1.6-million-acre Bitterroot National Forest encompasses 72% of the land in Ravalli County, serving as the backdrop, playground and economic rock for the Bitterroot Valley. Although the Supervisor's Office is still in Hamilton, there are only 4 Districts: Stevensville, Darby, Sula, and West Fork. Trapper Creek Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, Darby, MT, has been a part of the Forest's history since 1964.

Approximately 340 students, teachers, principals, and parents accepted an invitation to attend our Open House in Hamilton. Darby High School Senior Mark Seitz played a national anthem trumpet solo at the flag raising to mark the start the "official" celebration.

Cake and punch were provided by the Trapper Creek Job Corps Culinary Arts Students. Special programs and displays were presented throughout the day. Walter (Mick) DeZell, former Forest fire management officer, presented a review of the Forest's fire history, and Dale Thacker, retired Stevensville District Ranger, presented a history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, located on the Forest in the 1930s.



BITTERROOT NF'S FAMOUS FLOCH PLAYERS: (L to R) Jeff Amoss, resource staff officer; Rob McCleod, biological specialist; Linda Pietarinen, botanist; Sue Rose, computer specialist; Rick Floch, timber management assistant.



CENTENNIAL PARTICIPANTS OF ALL AGES:

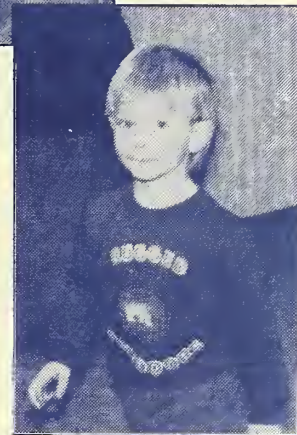
"Tex" Mott, 92, former Bitterroot NF packer, and Evan Silvius, 3-year-old son of Dave and Mary Silvius, Stevensville RD.



WHERE IS YOUR HOUSE IN THE VALLEY: Ruth Lewis, data base coordinator, points out a student's house on a computer-generated map of the Bitterroot Valley while Rob McCleod, biological specialist, operates the Geographical Information System computer keyboard.



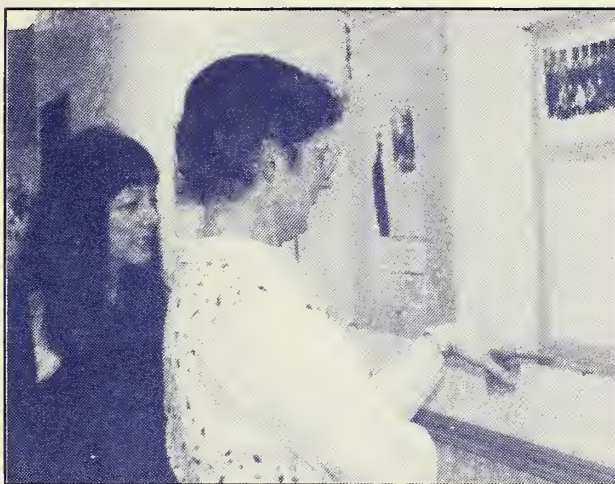
MICK DEZELL, fire management officer, retired; West Ford DR Nora Rasure.



A group of current employees, dubbed the "Floch Players", presented a skit comparing Forest Service life in the "old days" with today.

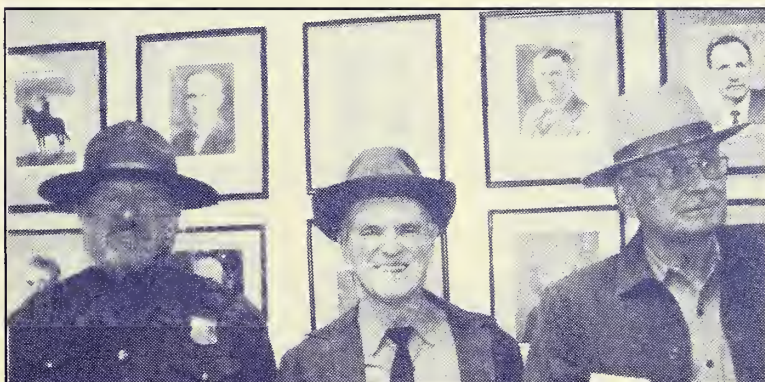
Forest Service retirees and their families were the highlight of the day. They included Thurman Trosper (Supervisor from 1955-1959); Earl Cooley (made first smokejumper jump on a fire in 1940); 92-year-old Tex Mott (worked as a packer on the Bitterroot NF); Janie Thompson (Mrs. Brooke Thompson) and Jamie Grant (Mrs. Roy Grant), who found their grandfathers in a 1950 photo of an Information & Education School; and recently-retired Chief Jack Ward and Kathleen Thomas.

What does the future hold? According to Forest Supervisor Steve Kelly "... managing the resources and land while operating in a controversial climate of diverse public opinion and political intervention. The Bitterroot National Forest has some of the very finest employees I've had the pleasure of working with in my career. They are up to the challenge!"



GRANDDAUGHTERS FINDING THEIR GRANDFATHERS:

Janie Thompson (left), granddaughter of former Stevensville District Ranger Charles McDonald, and Jamie Grant, (right), granddaughter of John Emerson, Forest Service retiree. Janie and Jamie found their grandfathers in the same historic 1950 photo.



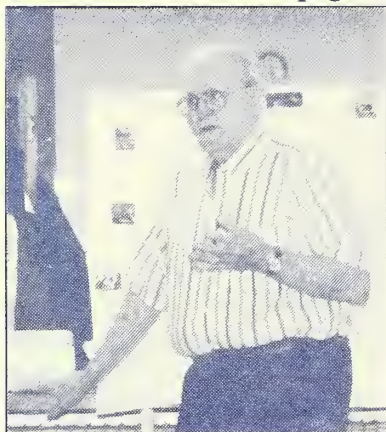
UNIFORMS:

1900s and 1950s. (left to right) Steve Kelly, Supervisor, Bitterroot NF; Jim Freeman, Forest Service retiree; Hoot Gibson, Forest Service retiree.

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Continued
from page 7



DALE THACKER, Stevensville DR, retired.



FORMER BITTERROOT NF SUPERVISOR
(1955-1959) Thurman and Dorothy Trosper.

Photos by Dixie Dies.

Jay Gore National Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator

Jay Gore, threatened and endangered species program leader, Intermountain Station, Ogden, Utah, was detailed in December to serve for three months as the National Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator, based in the R-1 Division of Wildlife, Watershed, Fisheries and Rare Plants in the regional headquarters in Missoula.

Gore has now been named the National Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator. He can be reached by phone in the RO: (406) 329-3561.

He holds a BS in wildlife management (1963) from South Dakota State University and a MS degree in wildlife management (1965) from the University of Maine. Gore has worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee Fish & Game Commission, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Forest Service. He has been involved with Endangered Species Act work in the Northern Rockies since 1978.

Burning Coal Veins On Little Missouri Grasslands



COLUMNAR JUNIPERS NEAR THE BURNING COAL VEIN campground in the Little Missouri National Grasslands of the Custer National Forest. Photo by Lu Burger.

It is not known when a coal vein started burning 37 miles southwest of Belfield, N.D., in the Little Missouri National Grasslands. It was burning when the first white settlers came to the area.

The burning coal vein is now extinguished. It burned itself out in 1995. The layered coal vein was 30 feet below the surface and about 20 feet thick. Columnar junipers that grew in close association with the burning coal vein are Rocky Mountain Junipers. These are the only junipers in North Dakota that are known to grow in this beautiful, columnar shape.

This area and the Burning Coal Vein Campground are under the administration of the Medora Ranger District, Dickinson, N.D., Custer National Forest.

Other burning coal veins were started in 1988 in the Ash Coulee area by a grass fire. Several of these fires have been extinguished by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement in cooperation with the Forest Service to prevent damage to oil and gas facilities (well pads and pipelines) and range resources. A number of these coal veins are still burning in the Ash Coulee area, about 17 miles northwest of Belfield.

The columnar junipers at the Burning Coal Vein campground are starting to "bush" out with additional lateral growth. This growth form takes many years to develop. Trees that did not burn in the Ash Coulee area do not have this shape. The Little Missouri National Grasslands (1,026, 504 acres) are a sequel to hard experience and new thinking about agriculture and resources. Here the Forest Service, the State of North Dakota and local people have rebuilt the ruins of drought-stricken and misused lands. The National Grasslands became a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture emergency rehabilitation program in the 1930s.

Submarginal farms and depleted rangelands were purchased by the Federal government and destitute owners and operators were resettled. Slowly, over the years, the range has been restored to better, wiser, more productive use.

Approximately 41,000 cattle and 325 horses are now permitted on the Little Missouri National Grasslands. The animals graze these public lands under more than 500 paid Forest Service grazing permits.

A detailed map of the Little Missouri National Grasslands is available for \$4. For additional information about these Grasslands, telephone the Medora Ranger District, Dickinson, N.D. (701) 225-5151.

Horse & Tractor Logging Play Important Role In Ecosystem Management

by Jane Kapler Smith, Intermountain Fire Sciences Laboratory, Missoula, MT; Intermountain Research Station; Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project.

The most sophisticated piece of equipment for some loggers in the Bitterroot Mountains of western Montana is a good harness. For others, it's a winch.

Horse logging and 4-wheel-drive farm tractors can be very useful in projects that require removal of understory trees. Both techniques are being evaluated in the Bear-Fred Burr study area as part of the cooperative Bitterroot Ecosystem Management Research Project (Bitterroot NF; University of Montana; Intermountain Research Station).

The project involves research at several locations in the Montana portion of the Bitterroot NF. The Bear-Fred Burr demonstration study site is near the 5,500-foot elevation west of Victor, MT, between Bear and Fred Burr Creeks.

Jim Lotan, a horse logger from Stevensville, bought the horse logging portion of the 113,000-board-foot Bear-Fred Burr sale. He worked with two other horse loggers in the timber harvest.

The horses were used to harvest 22,000 BF; 13,000 BF were harvested with a farm tractor; 55,000 BF with a small cat; and 23,000 BF with a rubber-tired skidder.

Last spring Pat Marsh had a 1,800-pound draft horse, "Ned", working on the sale. Ned wears size 5 horseshoes, draft size. Draft horses can usually pull at least as much as their weight, explains Chris McCabe, who worked a team on the horse log harvest.

Pat spoke quietly to Ned as he angled logs between trees. They left a narrow, dirt trail, and no scrapes on the trunks they skirted.

Does Ned like his work? "Now he likes it," Pat says. "Last winter wasn't fun." The freeze-and-thaw weather created extremely slippery conditions. A tongue was used to prevent logs from sliding downhill into the



STEVENSVILLE (MT) LOGGER, JIM LOTAN, and his team skid a Douglas-fir log in the Bear-Fred Burr demonstration study area in the Bitterroot NF.

horses. Cleats attached to the horseshoes helped prevent slipping, but sometimes scraped horses' ankles severely.

Matt Arno's 85-horsepower farm tractor, while less picturesque than Ned, worked with a similarly delicate touch on the farm tractor portion of the Bear-Fred Burr sale. The tractor was modified for safety in negotiating steep slopes. A special harvesting winch brought logs to the tractor from up to 175 feet away, then lifted the logs off the ground for skidding. This technique reduced soil disturbances. Farm tractors are very maneuverable in dense timber stands, so they can move small timber efficiently.

Ecosystem-based timber sales in ponderosa pine usually remove few large trees. When I asked what products come from the timber harvested by horses and farm tractors, Joe Scott, a farm-tractor logger, said 'All kinds.' Joe has used low-impact harvesting to reduce wildfire hazards in the urban-wildland interface. In the past year, Joe says he has sold loads for studs and pulp, "peeler logs" for plywood, and green firewood.

Trained as a forester, Joe likes logging with the ecosystem in mind. 'Good silviculture comes first,' he says. "Logging comes only after that."



MATT ARNO OPERATES A FARM TRACTOR and yarding winch in a demonstration study in the Bitterroot NF, west of Victor, MT.

Photos by Stephen F. Arno.

Bear-Fred Burr Demonstration, Bitterroot NF, West of Victor, Restoring Larch & Ponderosa Pine

Prior to logging in the early 1900s, the demonstration study area was dominated by large ponderosa pine and larch. Today, the stands consist mostly of diseased Douglass-fir in dense thickets.

Ten-acre blocks are being logged commercially, using four different technologies: horse logging, 4-wheel-drive farm tractor, rubber-tired skidder and caterpillar tractor. All units were marked to retain the scattered remaining pine and healthy firs while removing as much diseased fir as possible. Effects of different harvesting methods on soil and leave trees will be measured.

Prescribed fire will be used and then ponderosa pine will be planted. On a similar site, with steeper topography, cable harvesting and underburning are planned to restore open conditions and reduce fuels in a forest community historically dominated by large ponderosa pine and western larch.

Ed Wood Retires: 23 Years With Forest Service

by Laura Smith, Information Specialist,
Nez Perce National Forest, Grangeville, ID.

District Ranger Ed Wood, Red River RD, Elk City, ID, Nez Perce NF, retired in January, after 23 years with the Forest Service.

Wood earned a BS degree in forest management (1965) and MS in forest management with a major in forest pathology (1967) at the University of Idaho. He did additional graduate work at the University of Washington and at the University of California, Berkeley.

Wood began his Forest Service career as a temporary plant pathologist in California in 1973. He was promoted to permanent employee 6 months later.

He transferred to R-1 in 1978 as assistant director for diseases and forest pest management. In 1982, he was assigned to the Lincoln NF, Alamogordo, New Mexico, as forest planner. While on the Lincoln, he also served as public affairs, timber management, and fire management staff officer.

He was promoted to District Ranger in 1991, Red River Ranger District, Elk City, ID, Nez Perce NF.

His fondest memories are of his first job. "I didn't even have a desk! I had two pickups, two travel trailers, and three technicians. We would disappear into the mountains at snowmelt, and not return to the office until snow became too deep to work in."

Wood's hobbies include sailing and home brewing. He and his wife Beth will be living in Auburn, Washington, next door to dear friends.



Ed Wood

Bob Bosworth Retires, Bonners Ferry RD

by Maridel Merritt, writer/editor,
Bonners Ferry (Idaho)
RD, Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

Bob Bosworth, Bonners Ferry (Idaho) Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle NF, retired in January after more than 35 years with the Forest Service.

In a career with many highlights, Bob considers it most unique that he spent 28 years on one district and received several promotions without having to relocate. Unlike many foresters, Bob can look out his window at hillsides where plantations he planned are now almost large enough for commercial thinning and roundwood sales.

From 1968 to 1996, Bosworth worked at the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. After moving to the district, Bob was responsible for planning and preparation of salvage sales in the 17,000-acres burned in the Trapper Peak Fire. He then moved into timber stand improvement and reforestation and was contracting officer representative on the Trapper Peak Fire rehabilitation projects and supervised reforestation on the burned areas.

He accepted a fire/silviculture position and was promoted to district silviculturist in 1977. For the past 13 years he served as a member of the North Idaho Zone Fire Management Teams. From 1991 to 1996 Bob was incident commander. He received the Idaho Panhandle National Forests Supervisor's Award from Bill Morden in recognition of Implementation of New Perspectives in Forestry and was part of a team recognized by the Forest Service Chief for innovative use of excavators to pile logging slash.

Bosworth was elected national president of the Society of American Foresters in 1995. After providing leadership for the SAF as president-elect for the SAF, and president, he is now serving one year as SAF's past-president.

The entire Bosworth family has been very active in logging events. Bob won three world championship in double bucking with his son, Carson, and a world championship in Jack 'n' Jill crosscut sawing with his daughter, Megan.

"For more years than I kept track of," Bob has worked with students in grades four through six in the Kiwanis basketball program. He also co-chaired the volunteer group that built a roof over the bleachers at the Bonners Ferry high school football/track field.

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

KOLAR, CHRISTINE, purchasing agent, SO, quality step increase

New Employees

ROUECHE, PAMELA, office automation clerk, Dillon RD

CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

KASZA, JOHN, supervisory civil engineer, quality step increase, SO

KUNTZSCH, DEYNA, fish biologist, promotion, R-10 Tongass NF to North Fork RD

STEPHENS, CYNTHIA, supervisory forestry technician, promotion, Palouse RD

SUK, SALLY, computer program analyst, performance bonus, SO

Reassignments & Transfers

SIMON, JED, hydrologist, conversion to career appointment, Powell RD

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

KOLLMEYER, JANE, district ranger, Tally Lake RD, quality step increase

REES, DON, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, promotion

ROBERTS, WARREN, forestry technician, SO, quality step increase

Reassignments

WARREN, NANCY, wildlife biologist, SO, reassigned to forest planner

Retirements

HIRD, BRUCE, wildlife biologist, Hungry Horse RD

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

CHRISTIANSEN, STEVE, Planner, SO, performance award

MAY, BRUCE, Fishery Biologist, SO, performance award

PFEIFER, BILL, Contract Specialist, SO, Quality step increase

STORY, MARK, Hydrologist, SO, performance award

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

CROWDER, JUDY, resource assistant, Helena RD, promotion

Reassignments & Transfers

ROBERTS, EVAN (RAY), telecommunications specialist, SO to San Juan-Rio Grande National Forests, reassignment

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

COLHOFF, MARY, forestry technician, promotion, computer assistant, Priest Lake RD

EIMERS, STEPHANIE, student trainee wildlife biologist, promotion, fishery biologist, St. Maries RD

WYNSMA, BARRY, forestry technician, promotion, Bonners Ferry RD Reassignments & Transfers

DeLAY, LINDA, voucher examiner, Boise NF, reassignment, office automation clerk, Sandpoint RD

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BALBONI MICHAEL, district ranger, Three Rivers RD, quality step increase

BROOKS, CHARLES, supervisory biological scientist, SO, performance award

CARLIN, ROB, supervisory forester, Fortine RD, performance award

GARRISON, TRINI, computer assistant, Fortine RD, promotion

KERN, KENNETH, civil engineering technician, West Zone, quality step increase

KERN, PATRICIA, cartographic technician, SO, promotion

LIEN, KIM, financial technician, SO, promotion to accounting trainee, R-8 Kistachie NF

KREPPS, ROBERT, public affairs officer, SO, quality step increase

KROGER, LEWAYEN, civil engineering technician, West Zone, quality step increase

THOMPSON, ROBERT, district ranger, Eureka RD, quality step increase

VOTAPKA, FRANK, supervisory civil engineer, SO, quality step increase

Reassignments & Transfers

BOJONELL, HILAIRE, hydrologist, Three Rivers RD, reassignment to SO

CERNICK, STEWART, automotive worker, Cabinet RD, to maintenance worker, East Zone

JOHNSON, WAYNE, wildlife biologist, Cabinet RD, to SO

HAGER, DANIEL, civil engineer, R-9 Wayne NF, reassignment to East Zone

YOUNG, STEPHEN, maintenance worker, East Zone, reassignment civil engineering technician, West Zone Resignations

WEGNER, MARTHA, supervisory civil engineer, East Zone

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST**Awards & Promotions**

HAGEN, ARLYSS, resource specialist, SO, promotion

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST**Reassignments & Transfers**

LUCINDA, MARTIN, personnel management specialist, Flathead NF, SO, reassignment, personnel management specialist, Lolo NF, SO

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST**Awards and Promotions**

DEANE, PETER S., law enforcement officer, Salmon River RD, quality step increase
 DEFORD, LORI, law enforcement assistant, Nez Perce & Clearwater NFs, quality step increase
 DIDIER, STEVEN J., law enforcement officer, Elk City and Red River RDs, quality step increase
 MYERS, MICHAEL E., law enforcement officer, Moose Creek RD, quality step increase
 WILSON, CHARLES W., law enforcement officer, Palouse RD, quality step increase

Retirements

EVERETT, DAVID E., forester, SO, retirement

REGIONAL OFFICE**Awards & Promotions**

ANDERSON, BETTY, resource financial analysis, FR, performance award
 ANDERSON, CAROL, procurement analysis, P&P, quality step increase
 ANTONICH, PAT, forestry technician, RMLH&W, quality step increase
 ANTONICH, WILLIAM, printing specialist, P&GR, performance award
 ARTHUR, JAMES, personnel management specialist, HR, performance award
 BARTELS, SELINA, contract specialist, P&P, performance award
 BELL RANDALL, CAROL, entomologist, CF&FHP, quality step increase
 BLOCKER, LARRY, landscape architect, RMLH&W, quality step increase
 BLUNN, SUE, accounting technician, FR, performance award
 BOWLES, HOMER, forster, RMLH&W, performance award
 BURNSIDE, MICHAEL, mining engineer, RMLH&W, performance award
 BURTON, JACK, employee relations specialist, HR, quality step increase
 BYLER, JAMES, plant pathologist, CF&FHP, performance award
 CAMERON, MARGIE, forestry technician, F&R, quality step increase
 CLOSE, ELIZABETH, forester, RMLH&W, special act award
 COLLING, GENE, audio visual production specialist, P&GR, performance award
 DEWOLF, STACIE, forester, F&R, quality step increase
 ENNIS, JUDITH, budget analysis, RFO, performance award
 FEARS, DALE, accountant, FR, performance award
 FOX, BRUCE, range management specialist, F&R, quality step increase
 GEORGE, JANIS, purchasing agent, MTDC, quality step increase
 GORE, ROXIE, claims assistant, FR, quality step increase
 HALL, DEBBY, employee relations specialist, HR, performance award
 HUEY, MICHAEL, mechanical engineering technician, MTDC, quality step increase
 JACOBSEN, GERALD, position classification specialist, HR, performance award
 JASUMBACK, ANTHONY, mechanical engineer, MTDC, performance award
 KARSKY, RICHARD, mechanical engineer, MTDC, performance award
 KAUTZ, JAMES, audio visual production specialist, MTDC, quality step increase
 KEKICH, JANET, computer specialist, FR, quality step increase
 KOLLIN, NANCY, personnel assistant, HR, promotion
 KOWALSKI, GERALD, wildlife biologist, WWFRP, quality step increase
 LUSTGRAAF, SARA, visual information specialist, MTDC, quality step increase
 MANN, JEFFREY, program analysis, FR, performance award
 MCBRIEN, MAUREEN, supervisory biological scientist, RMLH&W, promotion
 MCCORKLE, MURIEL, claims specialist, FR, quality step increase
 NELSON, LINDA, resource assistant, CF&FHP, quality step increase
 NORSEKOG, THELMA, budget analysis, MTDC, performance award
 OLIVER, JAN, program assistant, EA&P, performance award
 PLATTES, BARBARA, Land Law Examiner, RMLH&W, performance award
 POSER, ELAINE, program assistant, WWF&PR, performance award
 RAETTIG, TERRY, economist, EA&P, performance award
 RAMOS, SANDRA, personnel management specialist, HR, quality step increase
 ROLOFF, GLENN, forester, CF&FHP, performance award
 RUEDIGER, WILLIAM, wildlife biologist, WWFRP, performance award
 RUSS, BETTY, employee training assistant, RMLH&W, performance award
 SHAFER, JOYCE, purchasing agent, P&P, performance award
 SOLEM, STEPHEN, biological scientist, EA&P, performance award
 STIPE, LAWRENCE, entomologist, CF&FHP, performance award

SUMMERFIELD, DALLAS, contract specialist, P&P, quality step increase
 SUNDT, JOHN, supervisory contract specialist, P&P, performance award
 ST. PETER, PEGGY, manpower development specialist, HR, quality step increase
 TESORO, RAY, Geology, RMLH&W, quality step increase
 THURLKILL, ROY, forester, RMLH&W, special act award
 TOUR, JAMES, mechanical engineer, MTDC, performance award
 TROTTER, NANCY, office automation clerk, RMLH&W, performance award
 VACHOWSKI, BRIAN, forester, MTDC, quality step increase

Reassignments & Transfers

GORE, JAMES, wildlife biologist, WWFRP, reassignment
 MCBRIEN, MAUREEN, supervisory biological scientist, RMLH&W, reassignment
 MEUCHEL, ROBERT, forester, FA&A, reassignment from Lolo NF
 THOMPSON, JOHN, forester, RMLH&W, reassignment
 VAN OMMEN, LESTER, supply technician, AFD, reassignment from Custer NF



IN MEMORIAM

JOHN CAVILL, 60, died Feb. 13 in Great Falls, MT. He grew up in Ryegate, MT, and first worked for the Forest Service in 1955 on the Red River RD, Elk City, ID, Nez Perce NF. After serving in the Army, 1959-1962, Cavill worked at the Missoula Technology & Development Center (MTDC) from 1962 until his retirement in August of 1992. As a supervisory mechanic engineering technician, he was foreman of the MTDC shop, 14th and Catlin in Missoula.

GARY E. EICHHORN, 59, died March 16 in Spokane, Washington. Born in Forsyth, MT, Eichhorn was a 1959 graduate of the University of Montana. After serving two years in the U.S. Army in Germany, he went to work for the Forest Service in Olympia, Washington and Grangeville, Idaho. He was based in Missoula from 1964 until his retirement in 1988. Eichhorn devoted much of his life to paleontology research. He worked in collaboration with Dr. Charles Miller at the University of Montana and Dr. Wes Wehr of the Burke Museum at the University of Washington and was active in hybridizing and propagating dianthus and primrose varieties.

DEREK REESE OWENS, 27, Thompson Falls, MT, was killed in an avalanche February 21 near Jackson, MT. He was lead forestry technician on the Plains/Thompson Falls RD, Lolo NF. He graduated as valedictorian from Thompson Falls High School in 1987. While attending Montana State University (MSU), he worked summers on the Thompson Falls RD fire crew. He graduated from MSU in 1992 with a degree in public administration. In 1995, Owens received a permanent appointment as assistant fire crew foreman at Thompson Falls.

CHARLES O. TROXEL, 58, Corvallis, MT, died February 23 in Hamilton. A native of Wisconsin, Troxel held a degree in forestry from Michigan College of Mining & Technology (1962). After serving in the Navy, 1956-1962, he served 33 years with the Forest Service. His Forest Service career took him to the Lewis & Clark NF, Harlowton, MT; Nez Perce NF, Cottonwood, ID; resource forester on the Priest River (ID) RD, Kanisku NF; and to the Bitterroot NF SO, Hamilton, MT. He was a logistics chief for a Type 1 overhead team. Upon his retirement in 1994, Troxel continued to be active with fire duties and many trail projects.

H. Wayne Phillips Retires; 34 Years in Forest Service

H. Wayne Phillips, ecologist, Lewis & Clark NF, Great Falls, MT, retired in January after 34 years with the Forest Service.

A native of Big Spring, Texas, Phillips, holds a forestry degree from the University of Montana School of Forestry, Missoula.

He first worked for the Forest Service, as a part-time employee while attending college, in 1961, as a laborer on a blister rust control crew, Pierce (ID) RD, Clearwater NF. The following year he worked as a firefighter on the Lolo IR Fire crew, Ninemile RD. In the summers of 1963-64, Phillips worked as a smokejumper, based at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot.

After graduation from the University in 1965, he accepted an appointment as a forester on the St. Joe National Forest in Idaho. He was promoted to range conservationist for the Helen (MT) NF in 1970, and later became a land use planner on the Helena NF.

Phillips worked as a supervisory range conservationist from 1976 to 1969 on the Madison RD, Ennis, MT, Beaverhead NF.

Since 1979, he has served as range conservationist and ecologist in the Lewis & Clark NF headquarters, Great Falls, MT.

Phillips will continue to make his home in Great Falls.

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NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting stories:

-Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.

-Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.

-Photos should be black and white, glossy prints with good contrast if possible.

Send articles to J.Moore:R01A (Data General) or Jud Moore, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula MT 59807.

The public affairs officer on your forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Retiree Identifies "Into The Past" Photo As Adams RS, 1925

R-1 retiree John Crupper, Missoula, identified the "Into The Past" photo on the back of the February issue of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS. It is a 1925 photograph, by K.D. Swan, of the Adams Camp and Ranger Station on the Nez Perce NF, about 25 miles south of Grangeville, Idaho.

Crupper was District Ranger for the Adams Ranger District from 1951 to 1955. It is now the Slate Creek Ranger Station, Salmon RD, near Whitebird, ID.

INTO THE PAST

Do you recognize the picture below? In 1910, it was a ranger station on the Bitterroot National Forest. But which ranger station?



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